प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : सभापति महोदय, यह जो ब्यूरो आफ् इंडियन स्टैंडर्ड्ज है इसको क्वालिटी के लिए बनाया गया था। अब इन्होंने इलैक्ट्रिकल एप्लायंसेज में जो छोटी-छोटी चीजें घरेलू उद्योग और कुटीर उद्योग में बनती थी, इन सबके ऊपर इनको स्टैंडर्डाइज करने का काम शुरू किया है। इससे जो मल्टी-नेशनल कंपनियां और जो बड़े-बड़े इलेक्ट्रिक एप्लायंसेज बनानेवाली कंपनियां हैं, उनको फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए इतने कड़े स्टैंडर्ड रख दिए है कि सारी कॉटेज इंडस्ट्री और स्माल-स्केल इंडस्ट्री इसके अंदर बंद हो गयी है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय, बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो चीज नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाती और सस्ती बिकती है, उसको बड़े बिजनेस हाउस और मल्टी-नेशनल्स के साथ मिलकर आपने जो इनका स्टैंडर्ड ज्यादा रख दिया है, उसकी वजह से क्या गरीबों और आम आदमियों को इससे बहुत बड़ा नुकसान हो रहा है ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, we have 125 items where mandatory certification is required. Standards have been laid down. Others are voluntary. These items are under the Essential Commodities Act. They are mainly items of food concerning health and hygiene. Some others are under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. So, I don't think it will be harmful for the society to have good standards as far as health and other items are concerned. The hon. Member may see the list attached to the answer given. I think there is no difficulty so far as these items are concerned. For other items, it is voluntary. There is no compulsory standardisation.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : श्रीमन् मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि खाने-पीने की चीजों पर, मेरी समझ में यह तो आता है कि खाने-पिने की चीजों पर आप उसे स्टैंडर्डाइज करें और उनमें मिलावट न हो यह भी ठीक है, लेकिन यह जो आपने बिजली के उपकरण, स्टोव, जी० एल० एस० लैंप, विद्युत उत्पाद दयूब्स— इनके ऊपर जो इतने बडे-बड़े बिजनेस हाउसेस और मल्टी-नेशनल्स आ गए हैं, वह आपके डिपार्टमेंट के साथ मिलकर इसको इतना सख्त बना रहे है कि कॉटेज इंडस्ट्री और स्माल-स्केल इंडस्ट्री में बननेवाला कोई भी आयटम बाजार में न बिक सके। इनको आपने कम्पलसरी में 125 में डाल रखा है। वह 1438 में नहीं हैं और कम्पलसरी में डाला गया है। इसमें उनके ऊपर यह चार्ज लगाया जा रहा है कि बहुत बडी रकम बडे-बडे इंडस्ट्रियल हाउसेस पे करते हैं ताकि इन सबको बीच में से वह निकाल दें। तो क्या आपके पास इसके सम्बंध में कोई शिकायत या रिप्रेजेंटेशन आया था ? जब बजट बना था, तब रिप्रेजेंटेशन आया था और आया था तो उस पर आपने क्या कार्यवाही की ?

श्री एच० आर० भारद्वाज : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है, मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूं। ऐसी कोई भी एकशन नही की जाएगी जिससे कि स्माल-स्केल का नुकसान होगा या किसी मल्टी-नेशनल का फायदा होगा। मेरे पास इस समय कोई ऐसी शिकायत नहीं है, वह माननीय सदस्य मुझे दे दें, मैं उस स्टैंडर्ड को दोबारा रि-एकजामिन करा दूंगा और आपके सुझाव पर भी अमल करा दूंगा।

श्री वीरेंद्र कटारिया : चैयरमेन साहब, मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि जिन चीजों का जिक्र अभी किया गया है और इसके अलावा जो खाने-पीने की चीजें हैं, वह इस एक्ट के नीचे लायी गयी है या नहीं ? अगर लायी गयी है तो आज भी क्यों राशन की दुकानों पर ऐसी चीजे सप्लाय की जाती है जोकि खाने-पीने के काबिल नही हैं। They are not fit for human consumption. लेकिन यह मसला बार-बार उठाए जाने के बावजूद आज भी ऐसी चीजें जो खाने-पीने के काबिल नहीं है या हुमन कंजप्सन के लिए फिट नहीं हैं, वह लोगों को सप्लाय की जाती है ? मैं वजीर साहब से जानना चाहूँगा कि ऐसी प्रैक्टिसेस को रोकने के लिए क्या कदम वे उठाएंगे ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, to deal with unscrupulous traders we have launched inspections and raids against them, and we have farmulated State Committees in 23 States. We have recently formed a Standing Committee on Standardisation. So, a multipronged strategy has been evolved, and we will see to it that unscrupulous traders are dealt with firmly and that the health of the society is protected.

Training Programmes for ITIs

*164. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes are being contemplated in the curriculum and training programme for the ITIs in the light of restructuring of the industrial sector under the new policy regime; and

(b) whether there is any programme to orient the training programme in the ITIs to suit the requirements of the agro-based and food-processing industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The curricula of 13 trades were re-oriented (specially designed) to make them suitable for retraining of rationalised workers under National Renewal Fund (NRF) for implementation in selected ITIs.

(b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) to further reorient the training programmes to suit the requairments of agro-based and food-processing industries.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to put this question to the Labour Minister. At the outset, we heard a lot about the reforms taking place with a human face. It was in this background that the NRF was initiated and floted. The difficulty is that the Minister, through the statement, has informed that 13 trades, courses and curricula have been reoriented. But, so far as our experience goes, we do not find any improvement whatsoever in the ITIs in the country. So, would the Minister be kind enough to let us know : (a) what these trades are; (b) which the ITIs in the country are where these changes have taken place, and (c) because of the changes and reorientation in the curriculum, what the percentage of the utilisation of the manpower is which comes out of the ITIs as certificate-holders.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the thirteen curricula which are undergoing reorientation are : Fitter, Machinist, Electrician, Wireman, Welder, Data Processing and Computer Software, Electronics Mechanic including redio and Television, Refregeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic, Draugtsman and course for publishing. So far as the total capacity in the ITIs all over the country is concerned, it is 4,07,338.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : I want to know about placements.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Regarding placements, I do not have the figure with me just now. I will arrange to send it to you.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very clear from the statement of the Minister that his answers are perfunctory. In part (b) of his statement, NCVT has been mentioned. Some three years back I had the misfortune of leading a delegation to the Ministry of Labour. I just want to cite an example to show the functioning of the NCVT. There has been a long-standing demand from the students of the ITIs that examinations should be conducted in the regional languages. It was assured by the Ministry of Labour that examinations would be conducted in the regional languages especially for the non-Hindi speaking areas. They are facing a big problem. I do not know whether any such decision had been taken either by the Ministry of Labour or by the NCVT subsequently. Will the hon. Minister kindly indicate some time-frame to conduct these examinations in the regional languages ? What are the exact changes that they are bringing in to make the courses relevant to the agro-based industries ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as conducting examinations in the regional languages is concerned, it is true that we have not been able to conduct these in the regional languages which are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. It takes some time. We have a plan to do it.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Mr. Minister, will you yield for a minute ? This is an issue which has been agitating the students of the ITIs for years together. This is a very simple thing. You are unable to make the courses relevant to the situation in which they are living. So, I want the hon. Minister to give us some time-frame so that examinations for these courses can be conducted in the regional languages.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will be very difficult for me to give the time-frame for conducting these examinations in the regional languages. I have noted the sentiments not only of this House but from various sections. We are receiving representations from them and I will certainly try to expedite them.

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, agro-based industries and food processing industries are the only way out for the development of this country. The hon. Minister in his statement has said that they do not have any orientation programme to meet the needs of the agro-based industries and the food processing industries. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would consider orientation of the programmes to meet the requirements of the agro-based industries and the food-processing industries. Will the hon. Minister consider imparting training to the students of the ITIs to meet the needs of these industries ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, altogether we have got 64 trades all over the country. Out of these, four trades are relevant to the agro-based industries and the food processing industries. I agree with the hon. Member that in view of the trend that is emerging in the country, in the field of investment—in the last three years, we have found that a large number of investments are coming in the food-processing and agro-based industries—there is a need for re-orientation. We are taking steps towards that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.